

*WELCOME TO XI*



# I

*HEBREWS 11:1-7*

# I

# HEBREWS 11:1-7

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN. <sup>2</sup> FOR BY IT THE PEOPLE OF OLD RECEIVED THEIR COMMENDATION. <sup>3</sup> BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED BY THE WORD OF GOD, SO THAT WHAT IS SEEN WAS NOT MADE OUT OF THINGS THAT ARE VISIBLE. <sup>4</sup> BY FAITH ABEL OFFERED TO GOD A MORE ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE THAN CAIN, THROUGH WHICH HE WAS COMMENDED AS RIGHTEOUS, GOD COMMENDING HIM BY ACCEPTING HIS GIFTS. AND THROUGH HIS FAITH, THOUGH HE DIED, HE STILL SPEAKS. <sup>5</sup> BY FAITH ENOCH WAS TAKEN UP SO THAT HE SHOULD NOT SEE DEATH, AND HE WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM. NOW BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN HE WAS COMMENDED AS HAVING PLEASSED GOD. <sup>6</sup> AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER WOULD DRAW NEAR TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM. <sup>7</sup> BY FAITH NOAH, BEING WARNED BY GOD CONCERNING EVENTS AS YET UNSEEN, IN REVERENT FEAR CONSTRUCTED AN ARK FOR THE SAVING OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. BY THIS HE CONDEMNED THE WORLD AND BECAME AN HEIR OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES BY FAITH.

# INVITATION

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TODAY IS OUR FIRST READING OF THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE.  
USE THESE FOUR MOVEMENTS AS YOU APPROACH THE TEXT.

## *1. READ & LISTEN:*

Read through the passage 2 or 3 times. Read it aloud once.

Let your awareness rest on each word.

Look and listen for a verse or a phrase that is capturing your attention.

## *2. REFLECT:*

Think about the verse or phrase that the Holy Spirit is drawing your attention to.

Make connections between it and your life. What is God saying to you?

## *3. RESPOND:*

Now take these thoughts — journal what you sense God saying.

Turn those thoughts into a prayer. now, in written words or drawings  
record that prayer. Don't hold back, be creative.

## *4. REST:*

Move from the activities of reading, praying and journaling  
to the stillness of contemplation.

Simply rest in God's presence.

Stay open to Him.

Remain in peace and silence before God. Listen.

How is God revealing Himself to you?

# II

## ROOTS OF FAITH

ILLUSTRATION BY MELISSA JACOBS

<sup>3</sup> BY FAITH WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED BY THE WORD OF GOD, SO THAT WHAT IS SEEN WAS NOT MADE OUT OF THINGS THAT ARE VISIBLE.

### HEBREWS 11:3

Roots give life to plants. They aren't always visible, yet they cause growth, bringing life & nourishment. Roots establish a plant. Faith, like roots, connect you to the life you long for. With roots of faith, you begin to understand (to exercise the mind, to clearly perceive, to comprehend) and engage your heart with the works of God. The invisible becomes visible.

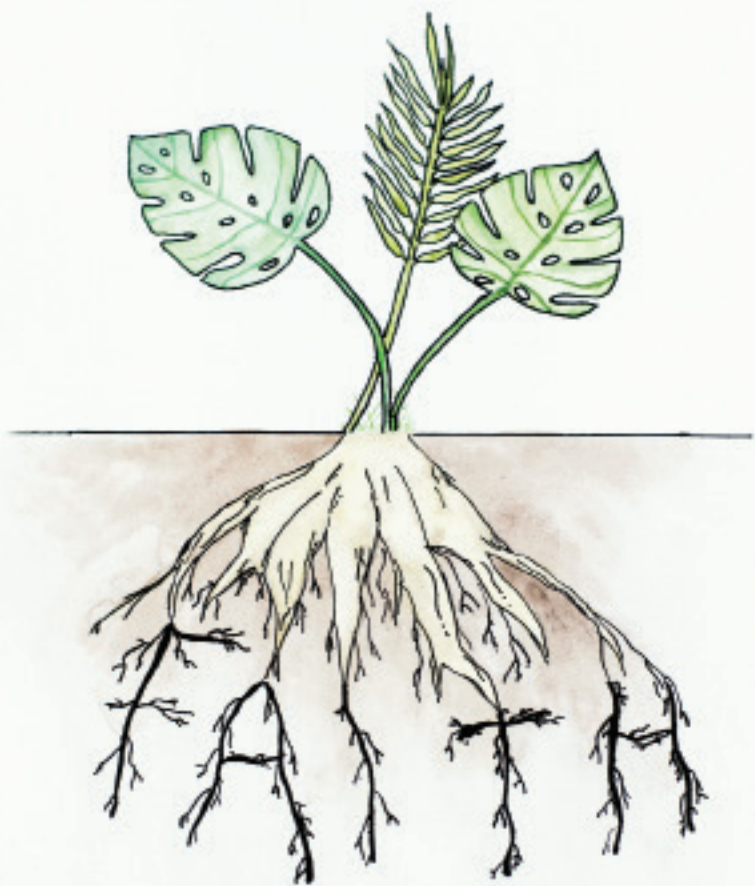
## INVITATION

TODAY, WHERE DO YOUR ROOTS OF FAITH NEED TO GO DOWN DEEPER? THINK ABOUT EVERY REALM OF YOUR LIFE. ARE THERE THINGS THAT MUST BE UPROOTED IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM FOR FAITH? WAIT AND ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SPEAK CLEARLY TO YOU. JOURNAL THESE THOUGHTS. THEN CREATE ONE ACTION STEP TO COOPERATE WITH WHAT GOD IS SPEAKING. TAKE THAT STEP EVERY DAY THIS WEEK.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION IS A POWERFUL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE. FILLING OUR MINDS WITH GOD'S TRUTH YIELDS GREAT SPIRITUAL DIVIDENDS. YOUR PRAYER LIFE IS STRENGTHENED, YOUR WITNESS OF CHRIST BECOMES SHARPER AND MORE EFFECTIVE, YOUR MIND BECOMES MORE ALERT, AND YOUR FAITH IS SOLIDIFIED.

WEEK ONE VERSE: HEBREWS 11:6 (AMP)

"BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO [WALK WITH GOD AND] PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER COMES [NEAR] TO GOD MUST [NECESSARILY] BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO [EARNESTLY AND DILIGENTLY] SEEK HIM."





"BY FAITH NOAH, BEING WARNED BY GOD CONCERNING EVENTS AS YET UNSEEN,  
IN REVERENT FEAR CONSTRUCTED AN ARK FOR THE SAVING OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.  
BY THIS HE CONDEMNED THE WORLD AND BECAME AN HEIR OF THE  
RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES BY FAITH. **HEBREWS 11:7**



# III

## HANG TIGHT

DESIGN AND WORDS BY CASEY BEARDSLEE

Scholars debate on the time it took in between the Lord giving this promise to Noah that a flood will in fact come, to the actual event of the flood itself...They say it took between 55-120 years for the promise to come to fruition. Let's be honest, either way, that is an extremely long time for Noah to remain faithful to what the Lord said. I'm sure there were people around him that thought he was absolutely crazy for building a giant boat in the midst of a dry season. I would guess that doubt rose in his mind about what the Lord had said and he questioned whether or not he heard His great voice correctly. Yet, for 55-120 years he held tight to the promise of God and acted on what He had said.

The Lord has given me quite a few prophetic pictures and promises about my future. There are days when I am not even shaken by the discouragements others may bring up to me, but there are other days where I can sway and forget the promises the Lord has placed in my hands. A dear friend gave me a word from the Lord recently on this topic, she believed the Lord was encouraging me to "Hang tight."

Hang tight to these promises that I could easily forget or think are not from Him. Hang tight to the faithfulness of the Lord in my life. Hang tight to the signs that will come forth that make way for the coming promises. When you see signs of your promise, even if they seem insignificant, charge ahead towards Him! God is standing in your promises saying, "Come here! I'm right here, waiting for you."

## INVITATION

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TODAY, GOD DESIRES TO SPEAK A PROMISE TO YOU. LIKE NOAH, IT IS BY FAITH THAT WE HEAR AND ACT. TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND ASK GOD FOR A PROMISE FOR YOUR FUTURE. SIMPLY LISTEN. JOURNAL WHAT YOU SENSE. WRITE THE PROMISE HE SHOWS YOU IN A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT OFTEN. READ THAT PROMISE EVERY CHANCE YOU GET. THEN, LIKE NOAH, HANG TIGHT. HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL.

# INVITATION

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TODAY, WE WILL READ THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE IN A DIFFERENT TRANSLATION. READ THROUGH THE VERSES ONCE OR TWICE, THEN REFLECT AND RESPOND TO THE PROMPTS PROVIDED.

(See verse 4) Abel's sacrifice was pleasing to God because it was done by faith. Think about this: the offering of your life can only be done in and by faith. Are you striving and struggling to please God by your own efforts? Today, take your eyes off your own successes or failures. Fix your gaze completely on Jesus. Choose total dependence upon God. Surrender your life by faith. Receive His love and acceptance to you. Now, write a prayer of surrender and thanksgiving to God.

(Verse 6) It's impossible to please God apart from faith. Why?

Because to approach Him we must both believe He exists  
and that He cares enough to respond.

This means it's possible to live a life pleasing to God. And this God-pleasing life isn't about being the strongest, smartest,  
or best-looking person around.

It's about simply believing in Jesus His life, death, resurrection  
and His great love for you. And that's possible for everyone.

TODAY, CRAFT A POEM TELLING OF THE LOVE YOU'VE FOUND IN JESUS.  
READING THIS PROMPT MAY EXCITE YOU OR INTIMIDATE YOU.  
WHATEVER YOU ARE FEELING, PUSH THROUGH!  
LET THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS GUIDE THIS EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.

- YOU WERE ONCE FAR FROM CHRIST. WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE?
- YOU ENCOUNTERED JESUS AND HIS LOVE. GO BACK TO THAT MOMENT.  
WHAT DO YOU SEE, FEEL, HEAR, AND SENSE?  
REMINDE YOURSELF OF THAT LIFE CHANGING MOMENT.
- YOU ARE REFLECTING ON YOUR NEW LIFE. WHAT HAS SHIFTED IN YOUR  
HEART AND MIND? WHAT HAS OUTWARDLY CHANGED?  
BE WILDLY EXPRESSIVE AND CREATIVE! DON'T HOLD BACK.

# IV

## HEBREWS 11:1-7 THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION (MSG)

1-2 THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT OF EXISTENCE IS THAT THIS TRUST IN GOD, THIS FAITH, IS THE FIRM FOUNDATION UNDER EVERYTHING THAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING. IT'S OUR HANDLE ON WHAT WE CAN'T SEE. THE ACT OF FAITH IS WHAT DISTINGUISHED OUR ACESTORS, SET THEM ABOVE THE CROWD. 3 BY FAITH, WE SEE THE WORLD CALLED INTO EXISTENCE BY GOD'S WORD, WHAT WE SEE CREATED BY WHAT WE DON'T SEE. 4 BY AN ACT OF FAITH, ABEL BROUGHT A BETTER SACRIFICE TO GOD THAN CAIN. IT WAS WHAT HE BELIEVED, NOT WHAT HE BROUGHT, THAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE. THAT'S WHAT GOD NOTICED AND APPROVED AS RIGHTEOUS. AFTER ALL THESE CENTURIES, THAT BELIEF CONTINUES TO CATCH OUR NOTICE. 5-6 BY AN ACT OF FAITH, ENOCH SKIPPED DEATH COMPLETELY. "THEY LOOKED ALL OVER AND COULDN'T FIND HIM BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM." WE KNOW ON THE BASIS OF RELIABLE TESTIMONY THAT BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN "HE PLEASED GOD." IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD APART FROM FAITH. AND WHY? BECAUSE ANYONE WHO WANTS TO APPROACH GOD MUST BELIEVE BOTH THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE CARES ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO THOSE WHO SEEK HIM. 7 BY FAITH, NOAH BUILT A SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF DRY LAND. HE WAS WARNED ABOUT SOMETHING HE COULDN'T SEE, AND ACTED ON WHAT HE WAS TOLD. THE RESULT? HIS FAMILY WAS SAVED. HIS ACT OF FAITH DREW A SHARP LINE BETWEEN THE EVIL OF THE UNBELIEVING WORLD AND THE RIGHTNESS OF THE BELIEVING WORLD AS A RESULT, NOAH BECAME INTIMATE WITH GOD.

A photograph of a man and a woman embracing and laughing joyfully. The man is on the left, wearing glasses and a blue button-down shirt. The woman is on the right, with short white hair and wearing a grey sweater. They are both smiling broadly and looking towards the camera.

## HEBREWS 11:1-3

THE PASSION TRANSLATION (TPT)

NOW FAITH BRINGS OUR HOPES INTO REALITY AND BECOMES THE FOUNDATION NEEDED TO ACQUIRE THE THINGS WE LONG FOR. IT IS ALL THE EVIDENCE REQUIRED TO PROVE WHAT IS STILL UNSEEN. THIS TESTIMONY OF FAITH IS WHAT PREVIOUS GENERATION WERE COMMENDED FOR. 3 FAITH EMPOWERS US TO SEE THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED AND BEAUTIFULLY COORDINATED[B] BY THE POWER OF GOD'S WORDS! HE SPOKE AND THE INVISIBLE REALM GAVE BIRTH TO ALL THAT IS SEEN.

# V

## LEGACY

PORTRAIT BY ISABEL STARK | PHOTOGRAPH BY AMANDA JAMES | WORDS BY NANCY SILVA

Legacy. What comes to mind when you hear that word? Do you picture a will being read? An estate being divided? Money, homes, even Grandma's good china being passed down to children and grandchildren? Those are all good things, things that should be received with open hands and grateful hearts. But there's more to legacy than temporal gain. Verse 2 of our scripture focus today speaks of a testimony of faith. Someone once put it this way: it was for this kind of faith that men and women of old received their divine commendation, and this has been placed on permanent record as an example to their descendants. Regardless of your financial worth, you can leave behind a rich spiritual legacy that will outlast every temporal blessing known to man. It's called a heritage of faith.

This promise of legacy became very personal for me in August 2016. I was in Cape Cod (my favorite place!), on vacation with my husband Joe, our 3 adult children and our soon-to-be daughter-in-law. That was the summer of Hebrews 11 for me. I was wrestling through some unexpected family loss and personal change. Suddenly, in verse 2 this concept of legacy came alive for me. For by it (faith) the people of old received their commendation. Commendation, what does that mean? It means to bear an honorable testimony. "Hmmm...ok, God." It was then I heard the Spirit of God say, You and Joe are leaving a heritage of faith for your children. Honestly, these words took my breath away. My eyes began to open to the reality of leaving behind eternal riches for our children. God spoke to me as if it was a present truth; something that already existed. You and Joe are leaving a heritage of faith for your children. Heritage speaks of property that descends to an heir. It's something that is transmitted or possessed as a result of your birth. I began to see and believe this incredible promise from God. Our children, their children, their children's children (you get my point) will live their lives with solid conviction and absolute reliance upon Christ. Bred into their bones is gospel faith that changes everything. By the grace of God, they will live their lives on the secure foundation of faith.

I wish I could say that this legacy was a result of our incredible, faultless journey these past 30 years. But that would be a lie. As I sat there that day, very aware of my shortcomings and a few of Joe's (he only has one or two). I was reminded of something simple but profound. This legacy comes by placing your faith in God. It had nothing to do with our righteousness. It was purchased by the cross of Jesus Christ and is freely available to all who will turn to Him in faith. As a follower of Jesus, this inheritance is mine by faith. Then, the Lord took me a step further in this truth. And as we follow the Lord fully, like Caleb (see Numbers 14:24), our descendants will also possess this priceless treasure.

There it was. A truth I could grab hold of with both hands or shrink back from in doubt. I grabbed it! I believed it! I started to reflect on the years of marriage and of parenting. I began to see a common theme. That theme was faith.

My husband Joe is an incredible man. As a husband, father and best friend, I couldn't find anyone better. But above all, he is a man of unwavering faith. It's

been that faith that we've lived in for almost 30 years now. It's been that faith that we've raised our kids in. And it's that faith that they now, as adults, own. So, how did it happen? What did it look like? As I reflect, I realize legacy wasn't built by grand gestures of faith. It's always been simple faith brought into every aspect of life. It happened in the morning getting ready for school and work, in the afternoon when the school bus arrived and then at the dinner table together. It happened in the times of plenty, and in the times of lack; in the laughter and in the tears; in the births and in the deaths; in the mundane and in the unexpected. It happened in the growing up and in the growing old. Every season and every circumstance faced with the deep and solid persuasion that God is real. That He is good, that He never leaves us, and that He always provides.

2017 was a big year for the Silva family. Our son, Joey married the love of his life, Chrissy. Our oldest daughter, Meghan, graduated from college. And our youngest, Caity, married her high school sweetheart, Will. We watch, in wonder and gratitude as they build their lives on the firm foundation of faith in Jesus. As they live in a way that says God is real and deeply cares about every aspect of my life. I'm convinced it was simple faith that has created this heritage of faith.

This is what we pass on to our children.

A secure testimony.

A divine and eternal legacy.

Faith.

## INVITATION

TODAY, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY OR TOO LATE TO BEGIN BUILDING LEGACY.

READ THE FOLLOWING INVITATIONS, THEN COMPLETE ONE.

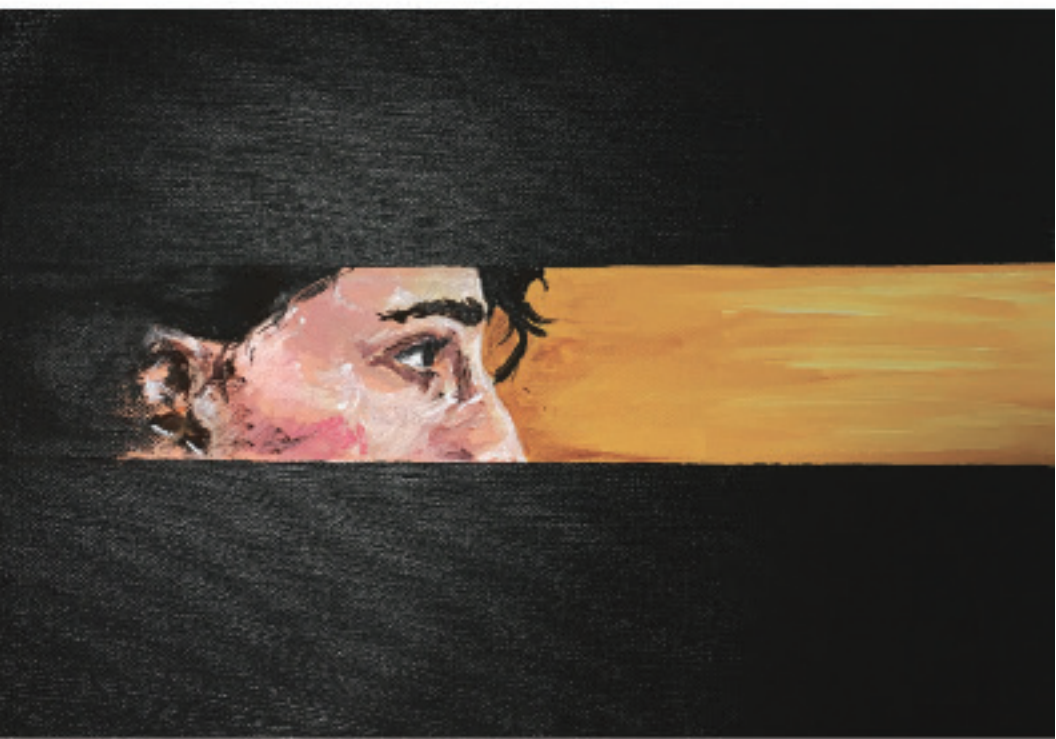
WHAT 5 SPIRITUAL TRAITS DO YOU WANT TO PASS ON TO YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN? WHAT STEPS DO YOU NEED TO TAKE TO BEGIN REALLY INVESTING IN THIS HERITAGE OF FAITH YOU DESIRE?

WE ARE SURROUNDED BY BELIEVERS THAT NEED TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH. WHO IS THE ONE OR TWO THAT GOD IS NUDGING YOU TO BEGIN INVESTING IN? HOW CAN YOU MAKE TIME FOR THESE FOLKS?

DECIDE HOW AND WHEN YOU WILL DO THIS.

PERHAPS YOUR CHILDREN ARE ADULTS, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BEGIN THIS HERITAGE OF FAITH. ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SHOW YOU THREE AREAS THAT YOUR CHILDREN NEED PRAYER FOR. WRITE THEM DOWN AND COMMIT TO PRAY DAILY. ALLOW GOD TO LEAD YOU AS TO WHEN AND HOW YOU CAN BEGIN TO SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH THEM.





"ANYONE WHO WANTS TO APPROACH GOD MUST BELIEVE BOTH THAT HE EXISTS AND HE CARES ENOUGH TO RESPOND TO THOSE WHO SEEK HIM."

**HEBREWS 11:6**



# VI

## HE CARES

PAINTING BY LYDIA TUTTLE | WORDS BY JOEY SILVA

There are times in life where it seems like darkness surrounds.  
This happens for us all maybe its sickness or a  
physical need. Maybe it's relational strife or something within  
your family. Maybe it's an emotional weight  
that feels unbearable. Maybe there aren't words to wrap  
around what you are walking through.

While we may be in the midst of hardship and we may feel  
like darkness surrounds,  
the reality is that God sees us.  
There is light in the darkness.

This verse in Hebrews 11 makes it clear we must first believe  
that He exists. This means that He is there, with you. He is  
living actively beside you, through the ups and downs of life.  
He sees you.

“He cares enough to respond to those who seek Him.”

Not only does God exist, not only does he see you and see  
what you are going through,  
God cares for you.

## INVITATION

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TODAY, REFLECT ON THIS TRUTH THAT GOD EXISTS AND HE CARES. LET THAT TRUTH SETTLE IN YOUR MIND AND IN YOUR HEART. THE SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT HE CARES FOR THOSE WHO SEEK HIM. TODAY, AFTER REFLECTING ON THE TRUTH THAT HE DOES CARE FOR YOU, BRING TO HIM ALL THE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE. BRING HIM YOUR CONCERNS, YOUR RELATIONSHIPS, YOUR FEARS. AS YOU SEEK HIM AND BRING TO HIM THESE THINGS, HE WILL MEET YOU AND SHOW YOU HIS CARING HEART TOWARD YOU.

# VII

# HEBREWS II:1-7

THE AMPLIFIED VERSION (AMP)

<sup>1</sup> NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE (TITLE DEED, CONFIRMATION) OF THINGS HOPED FOR (DIVINELY GUARANTEED), AND THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN [THE CONVICTION OF THEIR REALITY—FAITH COMPREHENDS AS FACT WHAT CANNOT BE EXPERIENCED BY THE PHYSICAL SENSES]. <sup>2</sup> FOR BY THIS [KIND OF] FAITH THE MEN OF OLD GAINED [DIVINE] APPROVAL. <sup>3</sup> BY FAITH [THAT IS, WITH AN INHERENT TRUST AND ENDURING CONFIDENCE IN THE POWER, WISDOM AND GOODNESS OF GOD] WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORLDS (UNIVERSE, AGES) WERE FRAMED AND CREATED [FORMED, PUT IN ORDER, AND EQUIPPED FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSE] BY THE WORD OF GOD, SO THAT WHAT IS SEEN WAS NOT MADE OUT OF THINGS WHICH ARE VISIBLE. <sup>4</sup> BY FAITH ABEL OFFERED TO GOD A MORE ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE THAN CAIN, THROUGH WHICH IT WAS TESTIFIED OF HIM THAT HE WAS RIGHTEOUS (UPRIGHT, IN RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD), AND GOD TESTIFIED BY ACCEPTING HIS GIFTS. AND THOUGH HE DIED, YET THROUGH [THIS ACT OF] FAITH HE STILL SPEAKS. <sup>5</sup> BY FAITH [THAT PLEASED GOD] ENOCH WAS CAUGHT UP AND TAKEN TO HEAVEN SO THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE A GLIMPSE OF DEATH; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM; FOR EVEN BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN [TO HEAVEN], HE RECEIVED THE TESTIMONY [STILL ON RECORD] THAT HE HAD WALKED WITH GOD AND PLEASED HIM. <sup>6</sup> BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO [WALK WITH GOD AND] PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER COMES [NEAR] TO GOD MUST [NECESSARILY] BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO [EARNESTLY AND DILIGENTLY] SEEK HIM. <sup>7</sup> BY FAITH [WITH CONFIDENCE IN GOD AND HIS WORD] NOAH, BEING WARNED BY GOD ABOUT EVENTS NOT YET SEEN, IN REVERENCE PREPARED AN ARK FOR THE SALVATION OF HIS FAMILY. BY THIS [ACT OF OBEDIENCE] HE CONDEMNED THE WORLD AND BECAME AN HEIR OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH COMES BY FAITH.

# INVITATION

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TODAY'S PROMPT MAY CHALLENGE YOU.  
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECTED BUT WILL PUSH  
YOUR MIND AND HEART TO A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF FAITH.

This week, we started to dig into the meaning of faith.  
Considering all that God has spoken to you this week, we  
want you to take a photo that captures faith.

Here's how:

-Be ready all day. Everywhere you go, everyone you meet,  
everything you see- listen for the Holy Spirit's whisper,  
This is what faith looks like.

-Accept and embrace that you are creative. Taking pho-  
tos during your day may be commonplace. It may be  
something you've never dared to do. The all-creative  
God formed you and guides you.

-Take as many as you like- don't limit yourself, don't  
look for perfection, don't overthink.

-At the end of your day, look through what you've cap-  
tured and choose the one that stands out. Do something  
meaningful with it. Print it. Write about it.

Make it a screensaver.

# WHEN ROOTS RUN DEEP

WORDS BY CHRISSEY SILVA

When roots run deep

they adopt a grip enduring  
anchoring firm into foundation  
weathering storm and trial and wind

When roots run deep

they choose hope within unknowing  
holding fast to strength enduring  
eyes fixed on the promised land

When roots run deep

life extends up to the branches  
giving food to those it touches  
and shade for those beneath

When roots run deep

many standing make a forest  
an assembly of endurance  
fueled by captivating peace

When roots run deep

they believe that He is faithful  
every promise worth the waiting  
growing towards the things unseen

# II

*HEBREWS 11:8-22*

# I

# HEBREWS 11:8-22

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> BY FAITH ABRAHAM OBEYED WHEN HE WAS CALLED TO GO OUT TO A PLACE THAT HE WAS TO RECEIVE AS AN INHERITANCE. AND HE WENT OUT, NOT KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING. <sup>9</sup> BY FAITH HE WENT TO LIVE IN THE LAND OF PROMISE, AS IN A FOREIGN LAND, LIVING IN TENTS WITH ISAAC AND JACOB, HEIRS WITH HIM OF THE SAME PROMISE. <sup>10</sup> FOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY THAT HAS FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE DESIGNER AND BUILDER IS GOD. <sup>11</sup> BY FAITH SARAH HERSELF RECEIVED POWER TO CONCEIVE, EVEN WHEN SHE WAS PAST THE AGE, SINCE SHE CONSIDERED HIM FAITHFUL WHO HAD PROMISED. <sup>12</sup> THEREFORE FROM ONE MAN, AND HIM AS GOOD AS DEAD, WERE BORN DESCENDANTS AS MANY AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND AS MANY AS THE INNUMERABLE GRAINS OF SAND BY THE SEASHORE.

<sup>13</sup> THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE THINGS PROMISED, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AND GREETED THEM FROM AFAR, AND HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND EXILES ON THE EARTH. <sup>14</sup> FOR PEOPLE WHO SPEAK THUS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE SEEKING A HOMELAND. <sup>15</sup> IF THEY HAD BEEN THINKING OF THAT LAND FROM WHICH THEY HAD GONE OUT, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN. <sup>16</sup> BUT AS IT IS, THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, A HEAVENLY ONE. THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY.

<sup>17</sup> BY FAITH ABRAHAM, WHEN HE WAS TESTED, OFFERED UP ISAAC, AND HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE PROMISES WAS IN THE ACT OF OFFERING UP HIS ONLY SON, <sup>18</sup> OF WHOM IT WAS SAID, "THROUGH ISAAC SHALL YOUR OFFSPRING BE NAMED." <sup>19</sup> HE CONSIDERED THAT GOD WAS ABLE EVEN TO RAISE HIM FROM THE DEAD, FROM WHICH, FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING, HE DID RECEIVE HIM BACK. <sup>20</sup> BY FAITH ISAAC INVOKED FUTURE BLESSINGS ON JACOB AND ESAU. <sup>21</sup> BY FAITH JACOB, WHEN DYING, BLESSED EACH OF THE SONS OF JOSEPH, BOWING IN WORSHIP OVER THE HEAD OF HIS STAFF. <sup>22</sup> BY FAITH JOSEPH, AT THE END OF HIS LIFE, MADE MENTION OF THE EXODUS OF THE ISRAELITES AND GAVE DIRECTIONS CONCERNING HIS BONES.

# INVITATION

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THIS WEEK WE WILL FOCUS ON THE  
NEXT FOURTEEN VERSES OF HEBREWS 11.  
USE THESE FOUR MOVEMENTS AS  
YOU APPROACH THE TEXT.

## *1. READ & LISTEN:*

Read through the passage 2 or 3 times. Read it aloud once.

Let your awareness rest on each word.

Look and listen for a verse or a phrase that is capturing your attention.

## *2. REFLECT:*

Think about the verse or phrase that the Holy Spirit is drawing your attention to.

Make connections between it and your life. What is God saying to you?

## *3. RESPOND:*

Now take these thoughts – journal what you sense God saying.

Turn those thoughts into a prayer. now, in written words or drawings

record that prayer. Don't hold back, be creative.

## *4. REST:*

Move from the activities of reading, praying and journaling

to the stillness of contemplation.

Simply rest in God's presence.

Stay open to Him.

Remain in peace and silence before God. Listen.

How is God revealing Himself to you?

# II

## BUILDER OF CITIES

PAINTING BY MADISON COPPLE

<sup>9</sup> BY FAITH HE WENT TO LIVE IN THE LAND OF PROMISE, AS IN A FOREIGN LAND, LIVING IN TENTS WITH ISAAC AND JACOB, HEIRS WITH HIM OF THE SAME PROMISE. <sup>10</sup> FOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY THAT HAS FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE DESIGNER AND BUILDER IS GOD.

### HEBREWS 11:9-10 ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

## INVITATION

ABRAHAM'S LIFE REFLECTED A RELENTLESS FAITH IN GOD. HIS FAITH EXTENDED BEYOND WHAT HE SAW HERE ON EARTH. HE MOVED BY FAITH LOOKING FORWARD TO A CITY WHOSE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER IS GOD. WHAT DO YOU SENSE GOD IS BUILDING RIGHT NOW IN YOUR LIFE? WHERE DO YOU SEE HIM WORKING IN YOUR HEART, DOING WHAT ONLY HE CAN DO?

WRITE A LETTER TO GOD, THE BUILDER OF YOUR 'CITY'. ASK HIM TO WORK IN SPECIFIC AREAS THAT YOU DESIRE CHANGE. THANK HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

HEBREWS 11:15-16 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> IF THEY HAD BEEN THINKING OF THAT LAND FROM WHICH THEY HAD GONE OUT, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN. <sup>16</sup> BUT AS IT IS, THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY, THAT IS, A HEAVENLY ONE. THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY.







# III

## EARNEST SEEKERS

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMANDA JAMES

<sup>11</sup> BY FAITH EVEN SARAH HERSELF RECEIVED THE ABILITY TO CONCEIVE [A CHILD], EVEN [WHEN SHE WAS LONG] PAST THE NORMAL AGE FOR IT, BECAUSE SHE CONSIDERED HIM WHO HAD GIVEN HER THE PROMISE TO BE RELIABLE AND TRUE [TO HIS WORD]. <sup>12</sup> SO FROM ONE MAN, THOUGH HE WAS [PHYSICALLY] AS GOOD AS DEAD, WERE BORN AS MANY DESCENDANTS AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND ON THE SEASHORE.

## HEBREWS II:11-12 AMPLIFIED BIBLE (AMP)

### INVITATION

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GOD DELIGHTS IN US AND REWARDS THOSE WHO EARNESTLY SEEK HIS FACE. TODAY'S VERSES REVEAL A GOD WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISE. THIS IMAGE REPRESENTS THE MINUTE DETAIL THAT EVEN GOD, CREATOR OF ALL, NOTICES. HE SEES YOUR ACTS OF FAITH AND YOUR MOMENTS OF WEAKNESS.

SCRIPTURE TELLS US TO POUR OUT OUR HEARTS BEFORE GOD. TODAY, CHANGE YOUR NORMAL POSTURE FOR PRAYER. PERHAPS, KNEEL OR EVEN LAY OUT ON THE FLOOR BEFORE GOD. AS YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FRAGILE STATE, BEGIN TO BRING EVERY CARE, EVERY NEED TO THE GOD WHO SEES. PRAY UNTIL YOU SENSE A RELEASE OF WORRY AND CONCERN. END YOUR PRAYER TIME WITH WORSHIP AND THANKSGIVING.

# IV

## HEBREWS 11:8-21

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> BY FAITH ABRAHAM, WHEN CALLED TO GO TO A PLACE HE WOULD LATER RECEIVE AS HIS INHERITANCE, OBEYED AND WENT, EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS GOING.

<sup>9</sup> BY FAITH HE MADE HIS HOME IN THE PROMISED LAND LIKE A STRANGER IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY; HE LIVED IN TENTS, AS DID ISAAC AND JACOB, WHO WERE HEIRS WITH HIM OF THE SAME PROMISE. <sup>10</sup> FOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY WITH FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER IS GOD.

<sup>11</sup> AND BY FAITH EVEN SARAH, WHO WAS PAST CHILDBEARING AGE, WAS ENABLED TO BEAR CHILDREN BECAUSE SHE CONSIDERED HIM FAITHFUL WHO HAD MADE THE PROMISE.

<sup>12</sup> AND SO FROM THIS ONE MAN, AND HE AS GOOD AS DEAD, CAME DESCENDANTS AS NUMEROUS AS THE STARS IN THE SKY AND AS COUNTLESS AS THE SAND ON THE SEASHORE.

<sup>13</sup> ALL THESE PEOPLE WERE STILL LIVING BY FAITH WHEN THEY DIED. THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE THINGS PROMISED; THEY ONLY SAW THEM AND WELCOMED THEM FROM A DISTANCE, ADMITTING THAT THEY WERE FOREIGNERS AND STRANGERS ON EARTH.

<sup>14</sup> PEOPLE WHO SAY SUCH THINGS SHOW THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR A COUNTRY OF THEIR OWN. <sup>15</sup> IF THEY HAD BEEN THINKING OF THE COUNTRY THEY HAD LEFT, THEY WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN. <sup>16</sup> INSTEAD, THEY WERE LONGING FOR A BETTER COUNTRY—A HEAVENLY ONE. THEREFORE, GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM.

17 BY FAITH ABRAHAM, WHEN GOD TESTED HIM, OFFERED ISAAC AS A SACRIFICE. HE WHO HAD EMBRACED THE PROMISES WAS ABOUT TO SACRIFICE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, 18 EVEN THOUGH GOD HAD SAID TO HIM, "IT IS THROUGH ISAAC THAT YOUR OFFSPRING WILL BE RECKONED." 19 ABRAHAM REASONED THAT GOD COULD EVEN RAISE THE DEAD, AND SO IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING HE DID RECEIVE ISAAC BACK FROM DEATH. 20 BY FAITH ISAAC BLESSED JACOB AND ESAU IN REGARD TO THEIR FUTURE. 21 BY FAITH JACOB, WHEN HE WAS DYING, BLESSED EACH OF JOSEPH'S SONS, AND WORSHIPED AS HE LEANED ON THE TOP OF HIS STAFF.

## INVITATION

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WHAT VERSE IS STANDING OUT TO YOU TODAY?  
WHAT DO YOU SENSE GOD SPEAKING THROUGH THAT VERSE?  
WHAT CONNECTION DOES THIS HAVE IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE?  
JOURNAL YOUR THOUGHTS.

# HEBREWS 11:8-10

## THE PASSION TRANSLATION (TPT)

<sup>8</sup> FAITH MOTIVATED ABRAHAM TO OBEY GOD'S CALL AND LEAVE THE FAMILIAR TO DISCOVER THE TERRITORY HE WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT FROM GOD. SO, HE LEFT WITH ONLY A PROMISE AND WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING AHEAD OF TIME WHERE HE WAS GOING. ABRAHAM STEPPED OUT IN FAITH. <sup>9</sup> HE LIVED BY FAITH AS AN IMMIGRANT IN HIS PROMISED LAND AS THOUGH IT BELONGED TO SOMEONE ELSE. HE JOURNEYED THROUGH THE LAND LIVING IN TENTS WITH ISAAC AND JACOB WHO WERE PERSUADED THAT THEY WERE ALSO CO-HEIRS OF THE SAME PROMISE. <sup>10</sup> HIS EYES OF FAITH WERE SET ON THE CITY WITH UNSHAKABLE FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER IS GOD HIMSELF.



# V

## O B E D I E N C E

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEXANDER TUCKER

Abraham is the main character in this week's passage.

Throughout his life, Abraham acted as a man who walked by faith not by sight. Abraham teaches us that faith and obedience are inseparable in our relationship with God.

Obedience is truly the outward evidence of inward faith. Acts of obedience are not always easy. They require a faith that rests not on the basis of knowing all the facts and details, but on the expectation of things to come on the goodness of the God who calls us.

This type of faith considers that the promise of God is as substantial as its realization.

The secret is found in verse 10. Abraham was looking for a city of a different kind. One with eternal foundations. One that was planned and built by God.

## I N V I T A T I O N

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NO ONE LIKES TO MOVE. IT'S EXHAUSTING, EXPENSIVE, AND EMOTIONAL. EVEN WHEN WE ARE MOVING FOR A GOOD REASON, IT'S VERY STRESSFUL. ALL THE PACKING...

THEN THE UNPACKING. IT AFFECTS EVERYONE INVOLVED - ADULTS, KIDS, EVEN PETS.

CHANGE CAN BE HARD. THIS SAME STRUGGLE AND STRESS CAN APPLY TO OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. GOD BEGINS NUDGING US TO 'MOVE'. MAYBE IT'S

NOT TO A DIFFERENT CITY OR COUNTRY (OR MAYBE IT IS!). PERHAPS, IT'S A JOB OR A RELATIONSHIP CHANGE. MAYBE IT'S A CHANGE IN YOUR HABITS, THOUGHTS, WORDS, OR CHOICES. WHATEVER THE NUDGE IS FROM GOD, WE CAN DO WHAT ABRAHAM DID AND RESPOND WITH FAITH. SETTING OUR EYES ON THE GOD WHO IS THE TRUE PLANNER AND

BUILDER OF OUR LIVES IS ESSENTIAL. TAKE A FEW MOMENTS, AND ASK GOD - WHERE IN MY LIFE DO I NEED TO MOVE?

USE THESE QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU HEAR HIS ANSWER:

IS GOD SPEAKING TO ME ABOUT WHERE I LIVE? IS HE SPEAKING TO ME ABOUT MY JOB? IS HE MOVING ME IN MY RELATIONSHIPS? ARE MY CLOSEST FRIENDS SOLID CHRIST-FOLLOWERS? AM I THE BEST SPOUSE, PARENT, CHILD, SIBLING, FRIEND, CO-WORKER, NEIGHBOR

THAT I CAN BE IN CHRIST?

IS HE PROMPTING CHANGE IN MY ATTITUDE? DO I STRUGGLE WITH UNFORGIVENESS, JEALOUSY, RESENTMENT, PRIDE, FEAR, INSECURITY, OR OTHER UNGODLY EMOTIONS?

APPROACH THIS TIME OF PRAYER IN FAITH, NOT FEAR.

JOURNAL WHAT YOU HEAR GOD SAYING.

SHARE THESE THINGS WITH A TRUSTED FRIEND.

ASK THEM TO PRAY WITH YOU FOR WISDOM, STRENGTH, AND OBEDIENCE.

*FOR FURTHER READING ABOUT ABRAHAM'S LIFE SEE GENESIS CHAPTERS 12-25.*

SIX DISTINCT FRONTIERS  
ACROSS A REGION HARD-  
ENED OVER TIME  
ABUNDANT POTENTIAL  
FULL OF GOD'S PEOPLE  
TO BE REACHED

MAP IT OUT.  
SECTION BY SECTION  
DOWNTOWN  
NORTH END  
FROGS HOLLOW  
FAIR HAVEN

WHERE DO PEOPLE GO?  
WHAT DO THEY DO?  
WHERE ARE THE  
CHURCHES?  
WHO IS ALREADY AT  
WORK HERE?  
WHAT REMAINS FROM THE  
PAST?  
SEEKING GOD'S WORD  
FOR THIS PLACE

WALK THE STREETS.  
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN  
LIVES  
TALK WITH NEIGHBORS  
WHO INVEST  
TIME  
POPULATING THESE  
BORDERS

STUDY THE LANDSCAPE.  
GATHER THE PROMISES  
WHISPERED  
NOTICE  
SEE IT WITH HIS EYES  
THE PULSE OF EACH  
PLACE  
UNIQUE  
AND ITS OWN

WORSHIP.  
HIS CREATION  
THE MAJESTIC ARCHITECT

PRAY.  
AND WAIT  
FOR HIS PLAN,  
FOR AN ORDER TO STEPS,  
FOR DOORS OF  
OPPORTUNITY

SPEAK.  
THE PROPHETIC DESTINY  
BREATH AND LIFE INTO THE  
DESOLATE PLACES

FAITH.  
STAKES IN THE GROUND  
NO TURNING BACK  
FOCUS SET AHEAD  
RAISE THE FLAGS  
PIONEER THE PATH  
LEAD THE WAY TO  
"THE CITY THAT IS TO COME"  
ALL THE WHILE  
POINTING UP

THE GLORY  
AND HONOR GIVEN TO  
THE ONE  
WHO GAVE IT ALL.

OUR SIXTH HOME  
HOPE AND JOY  
SPRING FORTH  
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES  
NUMBER SEVEN

MAP IT OUT.



# VI

## THE ARCHITECT

POEM BY LAUREN CORSO

FOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CITY THAT HAS FOUNDATIONS,  
WHOSE DESIGNER AND BUILDER IS GOD.

**HEBREWS II:10**  
ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

This week's passage is about faith, obedience, and adventure. God has placed you in your city to bring change. Read this poem- then act on the prompts provided.

## INVITATION

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-SET ASIDE TIME THIS WEEK TO WALK AND PRAY AROUND  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR CITY.

ASK FOR GOD'S EYES TO SEE WHAT HE HAS ARCHITECTED AROUND YOU.

-BEFORE YOU WALK, FIND A SCRIPTURAL PROMISE THAT YOU CAN PRAY OVER  
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR CITY.

-AS YOU WALK, KEEP YOUR EAR ATTENTIVE TO WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO  
YOU. DREAM WITH GOD ABOUT HIS BEST PLANS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
OR CITY. THINK ABOUT INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, BUSINESS OWNERS,  
COMMUNITY LEADERS. HOW WOULD THINGS CHANGE IF THEY ENCOUNTERED  
THE LOVE OF GOD?

# VII

## HEBREWS 11:8-21

### THE LIVING BIBLE (TLB)

<sup>8</sup> ABRAHAM TRUSTED GOD, AND WHEN GOD TOLD HIM TO LEAVE HOME AND GO FAR AWAY TO ANOTHER LAND THAT HE PROMISED TO GIVE HIM, ABRAHAM OBEYED. AWAY HE WENT, NOT EVEN KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING. <sup>9</sup> AND EVEN WHEN HE REACHED GOD'S PROMISED LAND, HE LIVED IN TENTS LIKE A MERE VISITOR AS DID ISAAC AND JACOB, TO WHOM GOD GAVE THE SAME PROMISE. <sup>10</sup> ABRAHAM DID THIS BECAUSE HE WAS CONFIDENTLY WAITING FOR GOD TO BRING HIM TO THAT STRONG HEAVENLY CITY WHOSE DESIGNER AND BUILDER IS GOD.

<sup>11</sup> SARAH, TOO, HAD FAITH, AND BECAUSE OF THIS SHE WAS ABLE TO BECOME A MOTHER IN SPITE OF HER OLD AGE, FOR SHE REALIZED THAT GOD, WHO GAVE HER HIS PROMISE, WOULD CERTAINLY DO WHAT HE SAID. <sup>12</sup> AND SO A WHOLE NATION CAME FROM ABRAHAM, WHO WAS TOO OLD TO HAVE EVEN ONE CHILD—A NATION WITH SO MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THAT, LIKE THE STARS OF THE SKY AND THE SAND ON THE OCEAN SHORES, THERE IS NO WAY TO COUNT THEM.

<sup>13</sup> THESE MEN OF FAITH I HAVE MENTIONED DIED WITHOUT EVER RECEIVING ALL THAT GOD HAD PROMISED THEM; BUT THEY SAW IT ALL AWAITING THEM ON AHEAD AND WERE GLAD, FOR THEY AGREED THAT THIS EARTH WAS NOT THEIR REAL HOME BUT THAT THEY WERE JUST STRANGERS VISITING DOWN HERE. <sup>14</sup> AND QUITE OBVIOUSLY WHEN THEY TALKED LIKE THAT, THEY WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR REAL HOME IN HEAVEN.

<sup>15</sup> IF THEY HAD WANTED TO, THEY COULD HAVE GONE BACK TO THE GOOD THINGS OF THIS WORLD. <sup>16</sup> BUT THEY DIDN'T WANT TO. THEY WERE LIVING FOR HEAVEN. AND NOW GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS MADE A HEAVENLY CITY FOR THEM.

<sup>17</sup> WHILE GOD WAS TESTING HIM, ABRAHAM STILL TRUSTED IN GOD AND HIS PROMISES, AND SO HE OFFERED UP HIS SON ISAAC AND WAS READY TO SLAY HIM ON THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE; <sup>18</sup> YES, TO SLAY EVEN ISAAC, THROUGH WHOM GOD HAD PROMISED TO GIVE ABRAHAM A WHOLE NATION OF DESCENDANTS!

<sup>19</sup> HE BELIEVED THAT IF ISAAC DIED GOD WOULD BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE AGAIN; AND THAT IS JUST ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, FOR AS FAR AS ABRAHAM WAS CONCERNED, ISAAC WAS DOOMED TO DEATH, BUT HE CAME BACK AGAIN ALIVE! <sup>20</sup> IT WAS BY FAITH THAT ISAAC KNEW GOD WOULD GIVE FUTURE BLESSINGS TO HIS TWO SONS, JACOB AND ESAU.

<sup>21</sup> BY FAITH JACOB, WHEN HE WAS OLD AND DYING, BLESSED EACH OF JOSEPH'S TWO SONS AS HE STOOD AND PRAYED, LEANING ON THE TOP OF HIS CANE.

# I N V I T A T I O N

Choose one of the two prompts provided:

Prompt # 1 - These verses are full of accounts of faith and obedience. Take time to create a timeline of your spiritual journey. Include times when God has spoken clearly, times that you have walked in obedience, times of answered and unanswered prayer and anything else the Holy Spirit brings to mind. When you're finished, thank God for all He's done in your life. Let this timeline encourage your faith in God.

Prompt # 2 Perhaps you are new on this journey of faith. The truth is God speaks to all of His children. You can hear God because He is your Shepherd and you know His voice (see John 10:1-5). Spend time before the Lord. Ask Him: Father, what is my next step of obedience? Be still and listen. Journal whatever He says to you.

# R E S T

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMANDA JAMES

This image is of two hikers seeking a moment of rest in the  
middle of a strenuous hike,  
they have yet to reach the summit.  
Their final destination.  
However, they are anticipating what they have not yet seen.  
Similarly, we are called to step into the unknown and have  
confidence in God's provision and direction.

## I N V I T A T I O N

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TODAY, TAKE SOME TIME TO REST. ALLOW YOURSELF TO CEASE FROM  
STRIVING AND FIND PEACE IN GOD'S PRESENCE. DO SOMETHING THAT  
BRINGS LIFE TO YOUR SOUL. AS YOU DO, OPEN YOURSELF UP TO HOLY  
SPIRIT. ALLOW HIM TO FILL YOUR SOUL WITH THE REFRESHING THAT  
ONLY GOD CAN BRING..







*HEBREWS 11:23-31*

# I

## HEBREWS 11:22-31

### ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> BY FAITH JOSEPH, AT THE END OF HIS LIFE, MADE MENTION OF THE EXODUS OF THE ISRAELITES AND GAVE DIRECTIONS CONCERNING HIS BONES.

<sup>23</sup> BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE WAS BORN, WAS HIDDEN FOR THREE MONTHS BY HIS PARENTS, BECAUSE THEY SAW THAT THE CHILD WAS BEAUTIFUL, AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE KING'S EDICT. <sup>24</sup> BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE

WAS GROWN UP, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER, <sup>25</sup> CHOOSING RATHER TO BE MISTREATED WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD THAN TO ENJOY THE FLEETING PLEASURES OF SIN. <sup>26</sup> HE CONSIDERED THE REPROACH OF

CHRIST GREATER WEALTH THAN THE TREASURES OF EGYPT, FOR HE WAS LOOKING TO THE REWARD. <sup>27</sup> BY FAITH HE LEFT EGYPT, NOT BEING AFRAID OF THE ANGER OF THE KING, FOR HE

ENDURED AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE. <sup>28</sup> BY FAITH HE KEPT THE PASSOVER AND SPRINKLED THE BLOOD, SO THAT THE DESTROYER OF THE FIRSTBORN MIGHT NOT TOUCH THEM.

<sup>29</sup> BY FAITH THE PEOPLE CROSSED THE RED SEA AS ON DRY LAND, BUT THE EGYPTIANS, WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO DO THE SAME, WERE DROWNED. <sup>30</sup> BY FAITH THE WALLS OF JERICHO FELL DOWN AFTER THEY HAD BEEN ENCIRCLED FOR SEVEN DAYS. <sup>31</sup> BY FAITH RAHAB THE PROSTITUTE DID NOT PERISH

WITH THOSE WHO WERE DISOBEDIENT, BECAUSE SHE HAD GIVEN A FRIENDLY WELCOME TO THE SPIES.



# INVITATION

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OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HEBREWS 11 CONTINUES.  
USE THESE FOUR MOVEMENTS AS YOU APPROACH THIS  
WEEK'S TEXT.

## *1. READ & LISTEN:*

Read through the passage 2 or 3 times. Read it aloud once.

Let your awareness rest on each word.

Look and listen for a verse or a phrase that is capturing your attention.

## *2. REFLECT:*

Think about the verse or phrase that the Holy Spirit is drawing your attention to.

Make connections between it and your life. What is God saying to you?

## *3. RESPOND:*

Now take these thoughts — journal what you sense God saying.

Turn those thoughts into a prayer. now, in written words or drawings  
record that prayer. Don't hold back, be creative.

## *4. REST:*

Move from the activities of reading, praying and journaling  
to the stillness of contemplation.

Simply rest in God's presence.

Stay open to Him.

Remain in peace and silence before God. Listen.

How is God revealing Himself to you?

# II

## FAITH REQUIRES ACTION

<sup>23</sup> BY FAITH MOSES, AFTER HIS BIRTH, WAS HIDDEN FOR THREE MONTHS BY HIS PARENTS, BECAUSE THEY SAW HE WAS A BEAUTIFUL AND DIVINELY FAVORED CHILD; AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE KING'S (PHARAOH'S) DECREE. <sup>24</sup> BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE HAD GROWN UP, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER, <sup>25</sup> BECAUSE HE PREFERRED TO ENDURE THE HARDSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD RATHER THAN TO ENJOY THE PASSING PLEASURES OF SIN. <sup>26</sup> HE CONSIDERED THE REPROACH OF THE CHRIST [THAT IS, THE REBUKE HE WOULD SUFFER FOR HIS FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE TO GOD] TO BE GREATER WEALTH THAN ALL THE TREASURES OF EGYPT; FOR HE LOOKED AHEAD TO THE REWARD [PROMISED BY GOD].

### HEBREWS 11:23-26 THE AMPLIFIED VERSION (AMP)

Moses' life is marked by a faith that makes risky choices. It started with his parents. When he was a baby, they recognized a divine favor on Moses and defied a decree ordering that all male Israelite children would be put to death at birth. As an adult, Moses renounces the status he enjoyed as a member of the Egyptian royal family and chooses, by faith, to identify himself with the enslaved Israelites. Verse 26 tells us that he decides that the stigma and disrepute of Christ is far more valuable than the treasures of this world.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:

HEBREWS 11:26 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> HE REGARDED DISGRACE FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST AS OF GREATER VALUE THAN THE TREASURES OF EGYPT, BECAUSE HE WAS LOOKING AHEAD TO HIS REWARD.

His faith required action.

You may not realize it but every believer in Christ will be faced with the same type of choice that Moses faced. You may not be forced to leave a royal family, forsake a position of great authority and prestige or walk away from great wealth. But as we choose to follow Christ, each of us will face choices that by the world's standards will seem foolish. Maybe for you, it's breaking up with that perfect guy because you know the relationship does not honor Christ. Or leaving that dream job because you sense God calling you onto the mission field. Maybe it's forgiving that friend who betrayed you. Or giving that money you saved for a new car to feed the poor. The list is endless. But the reality for all of us is the same. God desires that your life would be so marked by His Presence and His Power, that you would live in believing obedience to His Word.

## INVITATION

TODAY FAST A MEAL, SOCIAL MEDIA OR OTHER FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT. USE THAT EXTRA TIME TO SEEK GOD. ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU AREAS WHERE YOU NEED TO MAKE SOME TOUGH CHOICES. AREAS WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN RESISTING FAITH AND OBEDIENCE. BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF AND EXAMINE EVERY REALM OF YOUR LIFE. THIS INCLUDES RELATIONSHIPS, TIME, MONEY, CAREER, WORDS AND CHOICES. JOURNAL WHAT YOU SENSE GOD SAYING. AS NEEDED, TURN AWAY FROM ANY SIN OR SELFISHNESS BY ASKING FOR AND RECEIVING GOD'S FORGIVENESS. WRITE DOWN THE STEPS OF OBEDIENCE YOU NEED TO TAKE. RECEIVE, WITH JOY, THE STRENGTH OF GOD TO WALK OUT WHAT HE'S SHOWN YOU. SHARE WHAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED WITH A TRUSTED FRIEND WHO WILL ENCOURAGE YOUR FAITH.

*TO READ MORE ABOUT THE LIFE OF MOSES SEE THE BOOK OF EXODUS, ESPECIALLY CHAPTERS 1-20.*

# III

## OPEN ARMS

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTA BOSSE

<sup>26</sup> HE FOUND HIS TRUE WEALTH IN SUFFERING ABUSE FOR BEING ANOINTED, MORE THAN IN ANYTHING THE WORLD COULD OFFER HIM, FOR HIS EYES LOOKED WITH WONDER NOT ON THE IMMEDIATE, BUT ON THE ULTIMATE—FAITH'S GREAT REWARD!

### HEBREWS 11:26

THE PASSION TRANSLATION (TPT)

Choosing to suffer with his people, Moses found freedom living by faith. It is by this faith that he persevered, empowered by the Lord our God. Seeking God yesterday, you may have discovered some tough changes you need to make. Know that Jesus is inviting you into a life of freedom available through faith and obedience.

## INVITATION

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TODAY, COME TO HIM WITH OPEN ARMS -  
LEAVING BEHIND THE OLD AND EMBRACING

THE ULTIMATE REWARD:

RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SAVIOR.

CRAFT A PRAYER OF SURRENDER AND FAITH  
THAT DESCRIBES YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.



# IV

## EXODUS 14

<sup>29</sup> BY FAITH THE PEOPLE PASSED THROUGH THE RED SEA AS ON DRY LAND; BUT WHEN THE EGYPTIANS TRIED TO DO SO, THEY WERE DROWNED.

## HEBREWS 11:29

Today, you will be reading the Old Testament account of Hebrews 11:29. In this story, found in Exodus 14, we see God's saving power on behalf of His people. This exodus from Egypt, though a real, historical event, points to the saving work of Christ on our behalf. The passing through the Red sea is symbolic of the believer's identification found in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As you read this chapter from Exodus, keep in mind your spiritual journey from death to life.

## EXODUS 14

(ESV)

<sup>1</sup> THEN THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, <sup>2</sup> "TELL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO TURN BACK AND ENCAMP IN FRONT OF PI-HAHIROTH, BETWEEN MIGDOL AND THE SEA, IN FRONT OF BAAL-ZEPHON; YOU SHALL ENCAMP FACING IT, BY THE SEA. <sup>3</sup> FOR PHARAOH WILL SAY OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, 'THEY ARE WANDERING IN THE LAND; THE WILDERNESS HAS SHUT THEM IN.' <sup>4</sup> AND I WILL HARDEN PHARAOH'S HEART, AND HE WILL PURSUE THEM, AND I WILL GET GLORY OVER PHARAOH AND ALL HIS HOST, AND THE EGYPTIANS SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD." AND THEY DID SO.

<sup>5</sup> WHEN THE KING OF EGYPT WAS TOLD THAT THE PEOPLE HAD FLED, THE MIND OF PHARAOH AND HIS SERVANTS WAS CHANGED TOWARD THE PEOPLE, AND THEY SAID, "WHAT IS THIS WE HAVE DONE, THAT WE HAVE LET ISRAEL GO FROM SERVING US?"

<sup>6</sup> SO HE MADE READY HIS CHARIOT AND TOOK HIS ARMY WITH HIM,

7 AND TOOK SIX HUNDRED CHOSEN CHARIOTS AND ALL THE OTHER CHARIOTS OF EGYPT WITH OFFICERS OVER ALL OF THEM.

8 AND THE LORD HARDENED THE HEART OF PHARAOH KING OF EGYPT, AND HE PURSUED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WHILE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE GOING OUT DEFIANTLY. 9 THE EGYPTIANS PURSUED THEM, ALL PHARAOH'S HORSES AND CHARIOTS AND HIS HORSEMEN AND HIS ARMY, AND OVERTOOK THEM ENCAMPED AT THE SEA, BY PI-HAHIROTH, IN FRONT OF BAAL-ZEPHON.

10 WHEN PHARAOH DREW NEAR, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL LIFTED UP THEIR EYES, AND BEHOLD, THE EGYPTIANS WERE MARCHING AFTER THEM, AND THEY FEARED GREATLY. AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL CRIED OUT TO THE LORD. 11 THEY SAID TO MOSES, "IS IT BECAUSE THERE ARE NO GRAVES IN EGYPT THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN US AWAY TO DIE IN THE WILDERNESS? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US IN BRINGING US OUT OF EGYPT? 12 IS NOT THIS WHAT WE SAID TO YOU IN EGYPT: 'LEAVE US ALONE THAT WE MAY SERVE THE EGYPTIANS'? FOR IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR US TO SERVE THE EGYPTIANS THAN TO DIE IN THE WILDERNESS." 13 AND MOSES SAID TO THE PEOPLE, "FEAR NOT, STAND FIRM, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD, WHICH HE WILL WORK FOR YOU TODAY. FOR THE EGYPTIANS WHOM YOU SEE TODAY, YOU SHALL NEVER SEE AGAIN. 14 THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU, AND YOU HAVE ONLY TO BE SILENT."

15 THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, "WHY DO YOU CRY TO ME? TELL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO GO FORWARD. 16 LIFT UP YOUR STAFF, AND STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND OVER THE SEA AND DIVIDE IT, THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL MAY GO THROUGH THE SEA ON DRY GROUND. 17 AND I WILL HARDEN THE HEARTS OF THE EGYPTIANS SO THAT THEY SHALL GO IN AFTER THEM, AND I WILL GET GLORY OVER PHARAOH AND ALL HIS HOST, HIS CHARIOTS, AND HIS HORSEMEN. 18 AND THE EGYPTIANS SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD, WHEN I HAVE GOTTEN GLORY OVER PHARAOH, HIS CHARIOTS, AND HIS HORSEMEN." 19 THEN THE ANGEL OF GOD WHO WAS GOING BEFORE THE HOST OF ISRAEL MOVED AND WENT BEHIND THEM, AND THE PILLAR OF CLOUD MOVED FROM BEFORE THEM AND STOOD BEHIND THEM, 20 COMING BETWEEN THE HOST OF EGYPT AND THE HOST OF ISRAEL. AND THERE WAS THE CLOUD AND THE DARKNESS. AND IT LIT UP THE NIGHT WITHOUT ONE COMING NEAR THE OTHER ALL NIGHT.

21 THEN MOSES STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND OVER THE SEA, AND THE LORD DROVE THE SEA BACK BY A STRONG EAST WIND ALL NIGHT AND MADE THE SEA DRY LAND, AND THE WATERS WERE DIVIDED.

<sup>22</sup> AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WENT INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA ON DRY GROUND, THE WATERS BEING A WALL TO THEM ON THEIR RIGHT HAND AND ON THEIR LEFT. <sup>23</sup> THE EGYPTIANS PURSUED AND WENT IN AFTER THEM INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA, ALL PHARAOH'S HORSES, HIS CHARIOTS, AND HIS HORSEMEN. <sup>24</sup> AND IN THE MORNING WATCH THE LORD IN THE PILLAR OF FIRE AND OF CLOUD LOOKED DOWN ON THE EGYPTIAN FORCES AND THREW THE EGYPTIAN FORCES INTO A PANIC, <sup>25</sup> CLOGGING THEIR CHARIOT WHEELS SO THAT THEY DROVE HEAVILY. AND THE EGYPTIANS SAID, "LET US FLEE FROM BEFORE ISRAEL, FOR THE LORD FIGHTS FOR THEM AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS." <sup>26</sup> THEN THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, "STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND OVER THE SEA, THAT THE WATER MAY COME BACK UPON THE EGYPTIANS, UPON THEIR CHARIOTS, AND UPON THEIR HORSEMEN." <sup>27</sup> SO MOSES STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND OVER THE SEA, AND THE SEA RETURNED TO ITS NORMAL COURSE WHEN THE MORNING APPEARED. AND AS THE EGYPTIANS FLED INTO IT, THE LORD THREW THE EGYPTIANS INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA. <sup>28</sup> THE WATERS RETURNED AND COVERED THE CHARIOTS AND THE HORSEMEN; OF ALL THE HOST OF PHARAOH THAT HAD FOLLOWED THEM INTO THE SEA, NOT ONE OF THEM REMAINED. <sup>29</sup> BUT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WALKED ON DRY GROUND THROUGH THE SEA, THE WATERS BEING A WALL TO THEM ON THEIR RIGHT HAND AND ON THEIR LEFT.

<sup>30</sup> THUS THE LORD SAVED ISRAEL THAT DAY FROM THE HAND OF THE EGYPTIANS, AND ISRAEL SAW THE EGYPTIANS DEAD ON THE SEASHORE. <sup>31</sup> ISRAEL SAW THE GREAT POWER THAT THE LORD USED AGAINST THE EGYPTIANS, SO THE PEOPLE FEARED THE LORD, AND THEY BELIEVED IN THE LORD AND IN HIS SERVANT MOSES.





FAITH  
FAITH



# V

## O B E D I E N C E

DESIGN BY BENJI WAGNER

<sup>27</sup> IT WAS BY FAITH THAT MOSES LEFT THE LAND OF EGYPT, NOT FEARING THE KING'S ANGER. HE KEPT RIGHT ON GOING BECAUSE HE KEPT HIS EYES ON THE ONE WHO IS INVISIBLE.

HEBREWS 11:27  
NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT)

Astronaut's train for another world. An invisible world that,  
right now, they can't see or touch.  
Sometimes that's how faith feels. Faith requires that we fix  
our eyes on One we can't always see or feel.  
We train ourselves for this invisible world, and by faith, we  
come to know God. Even though we  
have not seen Him with our physical eyes, we love Him.  
Though we do not see Him now with our  
physical eyes, we believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is  
inexpressible and filled with glory.

## I N V I T A T I O N

---

TODAY, WRITE A PSALM EXPRESSING THE FAITH AND  
JOY YOU'VE FOUND IN JESUS.

BE EXPRESSIVE!

THEN, BE BRAVE AND SING YOUR PSALM TO GOD - OUT LOUD,  
WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.

# VI

## JOY-FILLED

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTA BOSSE

<sup>39</sup> BY FAITH, THE ISRAELITES MARCHED AROUND THE WALLS OF JERICO FOR SEVEN DAYS, AND THE WALLS FELL FLAT.

## HEBREWS 11:30 THE MESSAGE (MSG)

Our verse today tells of an event that required a seemingly  
crazy act of faith (see Joshua 6).

**Bold, obedient acts of faith produce a joy like no other.**  
Hearing the voice of God and responding in faith will  
fill your heart with gladness!

## INVITATION

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TODAY, IS YOUR DAY OF JOYFUL FAITH STEPS. IT'S A DAY TO BREAK OUT  
OF FEAR AND BOLDLY ACT IN FAITH. PERHAPS, IT'S THE DAY TO SHARE  
JESUS WITH THAT FRIEND OR CO-WORKER. OR MAYBE PRAY  
FOR EVERY SICK PERSON (OUT LOUD) YOU ENCOUNTER TODAY.  
TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND ASK GOD FOR MULTIPLE  
OPPORTUNITIES TODAY TO ACT IN FAITH. THEN,  
WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES - DO IT WITH JOY!



# INVITATION

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A DECLARATION IS A BIBLICAL TRUTH THAT WE CRAFT FROM SCRIPTURE, AND CONSISTENTLY SPEAK IT OVER OUR OWN LIVES. DECLARATIONS ARE A POWERFUL WAY TO MAKE THE BIBLE REAL IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE. LOOK BACK AT ALL THE VERSES OF HEBREWS 11 THAT COVERED THESE 3 WEEKS. CHOOSE 4 VERSES THAT STAND OUT TO YOU, AND WRITE A DECLARATION FOR YOUR LIFE FROM EACH VERSE. THEN, SPEAK THESE DECLARATIONS OVER YOUR SOUL EVERYDAY. HERE'S AN EXAMPLE TO HELP YOU GET STARTED.

verse: Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Declaration:

I please God because I live by faith in Him. I know that He exists and He rewards me as I seek Him everyday.

# VII

## HEBREWS 11:22-31

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> BY FAITH JOSEPH, WHEN HIS END WAS NEAR, SPOKE ABOUT THE EXODUS OF THE ISRAELITES FROM EGYPT AND GAVE INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE BURIAL OF HIS BONES.

<sup>23</sup> BY FAITH MOSES' PARENTS HID HIM FOR THREE MONTHS AFTER HE WAS BORN, BECAUSE THEY SAW HE WAS NO ORDINARY CHILD, AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE KING'S EDICT.

<sup>24</sup> BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE HAD GROWN UP, REFUSED TO BE KNOWN AS THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER. <sup>25</sup> HE CHOSE TO BE MISTREATED ALONG WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD RATHER THAN TO ENJOY THE FLEETING PLEASURES OF SIN. <sup>26</sup> HE REGARDED DISGRACE FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST AS OF GREATER VALUE THAN THE TREASURES OF EGYPT, BECAUSE HE WAS LOOKING AHEAD TO HIS REWARD.

<sup>27</sup> BY FAITH HE LEFT EGYPT, NOT FEARING THE KING'S ANGER; HE PERSEVERED BECAUSE HE SAW HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE.

<sup>28</sup> BY FAITH HE KEPT THE PASSOVER AND THE APPLICATION OF BLOOD, SO THAT THE DESTROYER OF THE FIRSTBORN WOULD NOT TOUCH THE FIRSTBORN OF ISRAEL.

<sup>29</sup> BY FAITH THE PEOPLE PASSED THROUGH THE RED SEA AS ON DRY LAND; BUT WHEN THE EGYPTIANS TRIED TO DO SO, THEY WERE DROWNED.

<sup>30</sup> BY FAITH THE WALLS OF JERICHO FELL, AFTER THE ARMY HAD MARCHED AROUND THEM FOR SEVEN DAYS.

<sup>31</sup> BY FAITH THE PROSTITUTE RAHAB, BECAUSE SHE WELCOMED THE SPIES, WAS NOT KILLED WITH THOSE WHO WERE DISOBEDIENT.

God that we  
would rest assured  
in your faithfulness  
and sovereignty  
that we would  
believe you  
wholeheartedly  
because we know you  
and know you always  
come through.  
When the things of this life  
don't make any sense,  
when we have to take  
steps in the dark,  
that we would keep going.  
Already you've brought  
us so far. You set us  
on a race already won.  
The reward that awaits,  
the promises unseen,  
are greater than any  
earthly victory.



# IV

*HEBREWS 11:32-40*

# I

## HEBREWS 11:32-40

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> AND WHAT MORE SHALL I SAY? FOR TIME WOULD FAIL ME TO TELL OF GIDEON, BARAK, SAMSON, JEPHTHAH, OF DAVID AND SAMUEL AND THE PROPHETS— <sup>33</sup> WHO THROUGH FAITH CONQUERED KINGDOMS, ENFORCED JUSTICE, OBTAINED PROMISES, STOPPED THE MOUTHS OF LIONS, <sup>34</sup> QUENCHED THE POWER OF FIRE, ESCAPED THE EDGE OF THE SWORD, WERE MADE STRONG OUT OF WEAKNESS, BECAME MIGHTY IN WAR, PUT FOREIGN ARMIES TO FLIGHT.<sup>35</sup> WOMEN RECEIVED BACK THEIR DEAD BY RESURRECTION. SOME WERE TORTURED, REFUSING TO ACCEPT RELEASE, SO THAT THEY MIGHT RISE AGAIN TO A BETTER LIFE. <sup>36</sup> OTHERS SUFFERED MOCKING AND FLOGGING, AND EVEN CHAINS AND IMPRISONMENT. <sup>37</sup> THEY WERE STONED, THEY WERE SAWN IN TWO, [A] THEY WERE KILLED WITH THE SWORD. THEY WENT ABOUT IN SKINS OF SHEEP AND GOATS, DESTITUTE, AFFLICTED, MISTREATED— <sup>38</sup> OF WHOM THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY—WANDERING ABOUT IN DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS, AND IN DENS AND CAVES OF THE EARTH.

<sup>39</sup> AND ALL THESE, THOUGH COMMENDED THROUGH THEIR FAITH, DID NOT RECEIVE WHAT WAS PROMISED, <sup>40</sup> SINCE GOD HAD PROVIDED SOMETHING BETTER FOR US, THAT APART FROM US THEY SHOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT.

# INVITATION

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THIS WEEK WE COMPLETE OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HEBREWS XI.  
USE THESE FOUR MOVEMENTS AS YOU  
APPROACH THIS WEEK'S TEXT.

## *1. READ & LISTEN:*

Read through the passage 2 or 3 times. Read it aloud once.

Let your awareness rest on each word.

Look and listen for a verse or a phrase that is capturing your attention.

## *2. REFLECT:*

Think about the verse or phrase that the Holy Spirit is drawing your attention to.

Make connections between it and your life. What is God saying to you?

## *3. RESPOND:*

Now take these thoughts journal what you sense God saying.

Turn those thoughts into a prayer. now, in written words or drawings  
record that prayer. Don't hold back, be creative.

## *4. REST:*

Move from the activities of reading, praying and journaling  
to the stillness of contemplation.

Simply rest in God's presence.

Stay open to Him.

Remain in peace and silence before God. Listen.

How is God revealing Himself to you?

# II

## REMAIN IN FAITH

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARIAH SABELLA

## INVITATION

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THESE VERSES TALK ABOUT THOSE WHO DIED IN FAITH, NOT RECEIVING WHAT WAS PROMISED. HOWEVER, THE VERSES MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THESE PEOPLE REMAINED IN FAITH. TALK SOME TIME AND JOURNAL YOUR RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS.

1. HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN YOUR PRAYERS DO NOT SEEM TO BE ANSWERED IN THE WAY YOU EXPECTED? CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS, INNER THOUGHTS, AND WORDS AS YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RESPONSE TO GOD AND OTHERS

2. WHEN PRAYERS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY ANSWERED, DO YOU KEEP ASKING? WHY OR WHY NOT? (SEE LUKE 18:1-6).

3. UNANSWERED PRAYER CAN BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER WHETHER YOUR LIFE IN JESUS IS ENOUGH FOR YOU. WRITE ABOUT A TIME WHEN UNMET EXPECTATIONS CAUSED YOU TO TURN MORE TOWARDS CHRIST.



<sup>39</sup> AND ALL OF THESE, THOUGH THEY GAINED [DIVINE] APPROVAL THROUGH THEIR FAITH, DID NOT RECEIVE [THE FULFILLMENT OF] WHAT WAS PROMISED, <sup>40</sup> BECAUSE GOD HAD US IN MIND AND HAD SOMETHING BETTER FOR US, SO THAT THEY [THESE MEN AND WOMEN OF AUTHENTIC FAITH] WOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT [THAT IS, COMPLETED IN HIM] APART FROM US.

## HEBREWS 11:39-40

THE AMPLIFIED VERSION (AMP)

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:  
HEBREWS 11:39-40 (NIV)

<sup>39</sup> THESE WERE ALL COMMENDED FOR THEIR FAITH, YET NONE OF THEM RECEIVED WHAT HAD BEEN PROMISED, <sup>40</sup> SINCE GOD HAD PLANNED SOMETHING BETTER FOR US SO THAT ONLY TOGETHER WITH US WOULD THEY BE MADE PERFECT.

# III

## PERSECUTION

POEM BY SOFIA RIBEIRO

<sup>35</sup> FAITH-FILLED WOMEN SAW THEIR DEAD CHILDREN RAISED IN RESURRECTION POWER. YET IT WAS FAITH THAT ENABLED OTHERS TO ENDURE GREAT ATROCITIES. THEY WERE STRETCHED OUT ON THE WHEEL AND TORTURED,[A] AND DIDN'T DENY THEIR FAITH IN ORDER TO BE FREED, BECAUSE THEY LONGED FOR A MORE HONORABLE AND GLORIOUS RESURRECTION!  
<sup>36</sup> OTHERS WERE MOCKED AND EXPERIENCED THE MOST SEVERE BEATING WITH WHIPS; THEY WERE IN CHAINS AND IMPRISONED. <sup>37</sup> SOME OF THESE FAITH CHAMPIONS WERE BRUTALLY KILLED BY STONING, BEING SAWN IN TWO OR SLAUGHTERED BY THE SWORD. THESE LIVED IN FAITH AS THEY WENT ABOUT WEARING GOATSKINS AND SHEEPSKINS FOR CLOTHING. THEY LOST EVERYTHING THEY POSSESSED, THEY ENDURED GREAT AFFLICTIONS, AND THEY WERE CRUELLY MISTREATED. <sup>38</sup> THEY WANDERED THE EARTH LIVING IN THE DESERT WILDERNESS, IN CAVES, ON BARREN MOUNTAINS AND IN HOLES IN THE EARTH. TRULY, THE WORLD WAS NOT EVEN WORTHY OF THEM, NOT REALIZING WHO THEY WERE.

**HEBREWS 11:35-38**

THE PASSION TRANSLATION (TPT)

# WHITE

I HAVE CHOSEN TO FIGHT  
AS DARKNESS IS LURKING, HE IS GUARDING  
I WILL NOT LET THEM CLOSE MY EYES  
I WILL SEE PAST WHAT THEY ARE DISTORTING  
I HAVE CHOSEN TO SEE LIGHT

YOU SEE, THIS LIFE MAY NOT KNOW THAT I AM WORTHY  
STILL, FAITH WILL CONQUER KINGDOMS THROUGH THE EDGES OF  
MY SWORD  
BY VIRTUE OF THE LORD, WHO KNOWS THAT I AM WORTHY.

FOR NIGHT IS NOT AS FRIGHTENING  
AS IT WOULD BE WITHOUT WHITE  
THUS I AM NOT AFRAID OF THE DAY  
WHERE ALL I AM IS A VOICE FROM THE PAST, A MEMORY

FOR I WILL BE WITH THE LORD,  
WHO HAS MADE ME WORTHY.

(THIS POEM IS WRITTEN THROUGH THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LIVES THAT  
WERE TORTURED FOR SPEAKING AND LIVING THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL)

## INVITATION

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TODAY SPEND SOME TIME ON [PERSECUTION.COM](https://persecution.com).  
THIS IS THE WEBSITE FOR THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS.  
CLICK ON THE 'HOW YOU CAN PRAY' SECTION. MAKE A LIST  
OF PRAYER REQUESTS YOU FIND THERE.  
ADD THIS TO YOUR DAILY TIME OF PRAYER.

# IV

## DANIEL 3

<sup>34</sup> QUENCHED THE POWER OF FIRE, ESCAPED THE EDGE OF THE SWORD, WERE MADE STRONG OUT OF WEAKNESS, BECAME MIGHTY IN WAR, PUT FOREIGN ARMIES TO FLIGHT.

## HEBREWS 11:34

Today you will read the Old Testament story  
of 3 young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,  
who quenched the power of fire.

## DANIEL 3

(ESV)

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR MADE AN IMAGE OF GOLD, WHOSE HEIGHT WAS SIXTY CUBITS<sup>1</sup> AND ITS BREADTH SIX CUBITS. HE SET IT UP ON THE PLAIN OF DURA, IN THE PROVINCE OF BABYLON.<sup>2</sup> THEN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR SENT TO GATHER THE SATRAPS, THE PREFECTS, AND THE GOVERNORS, THE COUNSELORS, THE TREASURERS, THE JUSTICES, THE MAGISTRATES, AND ALL THE OFFICIALS OF THE PROVINCES TO COME TO THE DEDICATION OF THE IMAGE THAT KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD SET UP.<sup>3</sup> THEN THE SATRAPS, THE PREFECTS, AND THE GOVERNORS, THE COUNSELORS, THE TREASURERS, THE JUSTICES, THE MAGISTRATES, AND ALL THE OFFICIALS OF THE PROVINCES GATHERED FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE IMAGE THAT KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD SET UP. AND THEY STOOD BEFORE THE IMAGE THAT NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD SET UP.<sup>4</sup> AND THE HERALD PROCLAIMED ALOUD, "YOU ARE COMMANDED, O PEOPLES, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES,<sup>5</sup> THAT WHEN YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF THE HORN, PIPE, LYRE, TRIGON, HARP, BAGPIPE, AND EVERY KIND OF MUSIC, YOU ARE TO FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAS SET UP.<sup>6</sup> AND WHOEVER DOES NOT FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE CAST INTO A BURNING FIERY FURNACE."<sup>7</sup> THEREFORE, AS SOON AS ALL THE PEOPLES HEARD THE SOUND



OF THE HORN, PIPE, LYRE, TRIGON, HARP, BAGPIPE, AND EVERY KIND OF MUSIC, ALL THE PEOPLES, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPED THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD SET UP. <sup>8</sup> THEREFORE AT THAT TIME CERTAIN CHALDEANS CAME FORWARD AND MALICIOUSLY ACCUSED THE JEWS. <sup>9</sup> THEY DECLARED TO KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, "O KING, LIVE FOREVER! <sup>10</sup> YOU, O KING, HAVE MADE A DECREE, THAT EVERY MAN WHO HEARS THE SOUND OF THE HORN, PIPE, LYRE, TRIGON, HARP, BAGPIPE, AND EVERY KIND OF MUSIC, SHALL FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE. <sup>11</sup> AND WHOEVER DOES NOT FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP SHALL BE CAST INTO A BURNING FIERY FURNACE. <sup>12</sup> THERE ARE CERTAIN JEWS WHOM YOU HAVE APPOINTED OVER THE AFFAIRS OF THE PROVINCE OF BABYLON: SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO. THESE MEN, O KING, PAY NO ATTENTION TO YOU; THEY DO NOT SERVE YOUR GODS OR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT YOU HAVE SET UP."

<sup>13</sup> THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR IN FURIOUS RAGE COMMANDED THAT SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO BE BROUGHT. SO THEY BROUGHT THESE MEN BEFORE THE KING. <sup>14</sup> NEBUCHADNEZZAR ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, "IS IT TRUE, O SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO, THAT YOU DO NOT SERVE MY GODS OR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT I HAVE SET UP? <sup>15</sup> NOW IF YOU ARE READY WHEN YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF THE HORN, PIPE, LYRE, TRIGON, HARP, BAGPIPE, AND EVERY KIND OF MUSIC, TO FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP THE IMAGE THAT I HAVE MADE, WELL AND GOOD.[C] BUT IF YOU DO NOT WORSHIP, YOU SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE CAST INTO A BURNING FIERY FURNACE. AND WHO IS THE GOD WHO WILL DELIVER YOU OUT OF MY HANDS?"

<sup>16</sup> SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO ANSWERED AND SAID TO THE KING, "O NEBUCHADNEZZAR, WE HAVE NO NEED TO ANSWER YOU IN THIS MATTER. <sup>17</sup> IF THIS BE SO, OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE, AND HE WILL DELIVER US OUT OF YOUR HAND, O KING.[D] <sup>18</sup> BUT IF NOT, BE IT KNOWN TO YOU, O KING, THAT WE WILL NOT SERVE YOUR GODS OR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT YOU HAVE SET UP."

<sup>19</sup> THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS FILLED WITH FURY, AND THE EXPRESSION OF HIS FACE WAS CHANGED AGAINST SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO. HE ORDERED THE FURNACE HEATED SEVEN TIMES MORE THAN IT WAS USUALLY HEATED. <sup>20</sup> AND HE ORDERED SOME OF THE MIGHTY MEN OF HIS ARMY TO BIND SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO, AND TO CAST THEM INTO THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE.

<sup>21</sup> THEN THESE MEN WERE BOUND IN THEIR CLOAKS, THEIR TUNICS,[E] THEIR HATS, AND THEIR OTHER GARMENTS, AND THEY WERE THROWN INTO THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE. <sup>22</sup> BECAUSE THE KING'S ORDER WAS URGENT AND THE FURNACE OVERHEATED, THE FLAME OF THE FIRE KILLED THOSE MEN WHO TOOK UP SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO. <sup>23</sup> AND THESE THREE MEN, SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO, FELL BOUND INTO THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE. <sup>24</sup> THEN KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS ASTONISHED AND ROSE UP IN HASTE. HE DECLARED TO HIS COUNSELORS, "DID WE NOT CAST THREE MEN BOUND INTO THE FIRE?" THEY ANSWERED AND SAID TO THE KING, "TRUE, O KING." <sup>25</sup> HE ANSWERED AND SAID, "BUT I SEE FOUR MEN UNBOUND, WALKING IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE, AND THEY ARE NOT HURT; AND THE APPEARANCE OF THE FOURTH IS LIKE A SON OF THE GODS."

<sup>26</sup> THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR CAME NEAR TO THE DOOR OF THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE; HE DECLARED, "SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO, SERVANTS OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, COME OUT, AND COME HERE!" THEN SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO CAME OUT FROM THE FIRE. <sup>27</sup> AND THE SATRAPS, THE PREFECTS, THE GOVERNORS, AND THE KING'S COUNSELORS GATHERED TOGETHER AND SAW THAT THE FIRE HAD NOT HAD ANY POWER OVER THE BODIES OF THOSE MEN. THE HAIR OF THEIR HEADS WAS NOT SINGED, THEIR CLOAKS WERE NOT HARMED, AND NO SMELL OF FIRE HAD COME UPON THEM. <sup>28</sup> NEBUCHADNEZZAR ANSWERED AND SAID, "BLESSED BE THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO, WHO HAS SENT HIS ANGEL AND DELIVERED HIS SERVANTS, WHO TRUSTED IN HIM, AND SET ASIDE[IF] THE KING'S COMMAND, AND YIELDED UP THEIR BODIES RATHER THAN SERVE AND WORSHIP ANY GOD EXCEPT THEIR OWN GOD. <sup>29</sup> THEREFORE I MAKE A DECREE: ANY PEOPLE, NATION, OR LANGUAGE THAT SPEAKS ANYTHING AGAINST THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO SHALL BE TORN LIMB FROM LIMB, AND THEIR HOUSES LAID IN RUINS, FOR THERE IS NO OTHER GOD WHO IS ABLE TO RESCUE IN THIS WAY." <sup>30</sup> THEN THE KING PROMOTED SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO IN THE PROVINCE OF BABYLON.



# V

## DELIVERANCE

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMANDA JAMES

<sup>32</sup> HOW MUCH MORE DO I NEED TO SAY? IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO RECOUNT THE STORIES OF THE FAITH OF GIDEON, BARAK, SAMSON, JEPHTAH, DAVID, SAMUEL, AND ALL THE PROPHETS. <sup>33</sup> BY FAITH THESE PEOPLE OVERTHREW KINGDOMS, RULED WITH JUSTICE, AND RECEIVED WHAT GOD HAD PROMISED THEM. THEY SHUT THE MOUTHS OF LIONS, <sup>34</sup> QUENCHED THE FLAMES OF FIRE, AND ESCAPED DEATH BY THE EDGE OF THE SWORD. THEIR WEAKNESS WAS TURNED TO STRENGTH. THEY BECAME STRONG IN BATTLE AND PUT WHOLE ARMIES TO FLIGHT.

## HEBREWS 11:32-34

NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT)

Even in the midst of fear and darkness, there is still a guiding light in the distance. Like those of old, a steady pursuit of faith we have the opportunity to find new life and deliverance through Jesus.

## INVITATION

WHERE IN YOUR LIFE DO YOU NEED TO SEE LIGHT BREAK THROUGH DARKNESS? TODAY, TAKE YOUR PRAYER TIME OUTSIDE.  
GO FOR A WALK AND TALK TO GOD.  
SHARE YOUR WHOLE HEART WITH HIM.  
THEN LISTEN FOR HIS VOICE.



"OTHERS SUFFERED MOCKING AND FLOGGING, AND EVEN CHAINS AND IMPRISONMENT. THEY WERE STONED, THEY WERE SAWN IN TWO, [A] THEY WERE KILLED WITH THE SWORD. THEY WENT ABOUT IN SKINS OF SHEEP AND GOATS, DESTITUTE, AFFLICTED, MISTREATED— OF WHOM THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY—WANDERING ABOUT IN DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS, AND IN DENS AND CAVES OF THE EARTH."

## HEBREWS 11:36-38



# VI

## FAITH - FILLED SUFFERING

PAINTING BY MADISON COPPLE | WORDS BY CHRISSEY SILVA

Suffering can come in many different forms: the horrifically torturous descriptions of Hebrews 11:36-38; the turmoil of a tormented mind; the loss of a loved one, the subject of hatred; addiction; abuse. Humans know suffering. But do we know faith in the midst of suffering? Do we cling to faith in the midst of it? Do we keep our eyes fixed on the One who gives our faith a place to stand firmly on? I know a woman who did, my mom. Her footprints of exemplary faith in the midst of extreme physical suffering spur me on daily to carry the flag of faith. To learn from her example and be a part of the continuation of her faith with eternally fixed eyes. Hebrews 11 ends with a complex thought, that although these faith warriors never received what they believed for - God has provided something better, something bigger. The example in extreme suffering, charges us to take up that same unshakeable faith. Rise up, study their example! Look to Jesus' example of faith-filled suffering. See the example of those around you who have held tight despite not seeing what was promised; still believing that He who promised is faithful, with holistic redemption at work.

What have you suffered? How are you suffering right now?

Who are the faith warriors you can be encouraged by?

## INVITATION

---

IN RESPONSE TO ALL THIS I ENCOURAGE YOU TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:  
FAITHFUL, REDEEMING GOD. I INCREASE MY FAITH RIGHT NOW TO  
BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE FAITHFUL IN THE MIDST OF MY SUFFERING.

YOU SEE MY SUFFERING.

YOU SEE THE PAIN I EXPERIENCE AND YOU KNOW IT TOO.

I WILL NOT SHRINK BACK BUT WILL DAILY SAY, "I TRUST YOU, BECAUSE  
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE KIND, LOVING, GRACIOUS AND ALWAYS IN THE  
WORK OF BRINGING REDEMPTION."

I HAVE HEARD OF ALL YOU'VE DONE  
BROKE THE WATERS UP AT ONCE  
THE GREATEST WALLS FELL TO THE GROUND  
ALL MOVED BY YOU

YOUR POWER MET THEIR TRUST  
YOU REMAIN THE SAME FOR US  
SO I STAND ASSURED TO SEE  
YOU MOVE AGAIN

SO I'M HOLDING TO YOUR PROMISE  
THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS FOR ME, ALWAYS FOR ME  
I'M TRUSTING IN YOUR GOODNESS  
I KNOW THAT I WILL SEE  
YOU MOVE IN ME

BREATHING LIFE INTO THE DEAD  
BRINGING HOPE TO HOPELESSNESS  
THIS IS WHO YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN  
AND WHO YOU ARE  
THIS IS WHO YOU ARE

HERE I AM  
WITH ALL I HAVE  
LORD, I SURRENDER  
TAKE MY HEART AND MOVE IN ME

LET ME SEE ALL YOUR LOVE  
FOR THOSE AROUND ME  
TAKE MY LIFE AND MOVE THROUGH ME



# VII

## BY FAITH, YOU MOVE

As you've read through Hebrews 11 these past few weeks, you saw God's power meet the faith of many. He met the faith of Moses as he stood at the Red Sea. He met the faith of Joshua as he stood outside Jericho. He showed up in the obedience of Abraham and Sarah, and in the faith of Noah as he built the ark. He met Moses' parents by the Nile, and then Moses as he walked away from Egypt. Countless times, faith has pleased God in the lives of His people.

Today, it's your time. Your time to rise in faith. That same power that you've read about in Hebrews XI is available to you. As you stand by seas of fear or disappointment, or at the walls of sickness or offense — hold fast to your faith in the God who is for you and is always good. Keep growing in the confident assurance that as you seek God in faith, you will find Him.

## INVITATION

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TODAY, TELL 3 PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST  
AND HOW IT HAS CHANGED YOUR LIFE.